

Minutes.....March 26, 2001

10:00 a.m.

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, March 26, 2001, the following members were present:

Gary Feland, Chairman
Jay Stovall, Vice Chairman, via telephone
Matt Brainard, Commissioner

Commissioners Anderson and Rowe were absent but left written votes with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE
Dennis Crawford
Utility Division

(113) In the matter of Montana Power Company, Docket No. D97.11.219; On March 13, 2001, MPC filed its fourth semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a. This filing is made by MPC in its role as servicer of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds. If the previous six-month period variance between the scheduled debt service and the actual amounts available to satisfy the scheduled debt service for such period exceeds 2 percent MPC is required to apply for adjustment to the Fixed Transition Amount (FTA) charges. The variance for the period was an overcollection of 8.65 percent or \$415,204.

Also on March 13, 2001, MPC filed annual adjustments to the CTC-GP-Credit and the CTC-RA-Credit. These two credit rate schedules pertain to certain rate base credits associated with gas production and regulatory asset transition costs. These rate adjustments were filed with the semi-annual true-up in order to provide a single rate adjustment for customers. MPC is returning \$1,000,000 it received as servicer of the MPC Gas Funding Trust. Since MPC will receive this amount annually from the Trust over the life of the bonds, this fee will remain in the CTC-RA-Credit and the CTC-GP-Credit. Interest of \$16,477 is eliminated since it has been fully refunded. Proceeds from the sale of three small properties are now eliminated since they have been fully refunded. The CTC-GP-Credit rates were adjusted on February 1, 2001, to reflect the sharing of \$32 million of proceeds over a one-year period. These two rate schedules have been adjusted to reflect the forecast market for the period that these rates will be in effect, April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002.

Commissioner Brainard moved to approve the decrease in the FTA charges and in the CTC-GP-Credit and CTC-RA-Credit. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(114) In the matter of T-00.51.PCN; On November 16, 2000 Final Order 6488a was issued to Westwind Trails and Tales, LLP, Cut Bank, Montana granting the following:

Class B – Passengers between all points and places in Cut Bank, Montana and a ten (10) mile radius thereof.

Carrier has submitted a tariff and request for vehicle registration receipts, however no liability insurance has been submitted. An Order to Show Cause for Failure to Meet Compliance Requirements was issued on

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February 8, 2001 and received by the motor carrier on February 12, 2001. This matter was deferred from the February 26, 2001 agenda. There has been no further contact from the motor carrier. Commissioner Brainard moved to cancel the authority. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

(115) In the matter of T-00.127.PCN; On October 20, 2000 Wild Horse Limousine & Carriage Company, Inc., Kalispell, Montana made application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Subsequent to that filing applicant purchased an existing operating authority and now requests that this application be withdrawn and the docket closed.

Class B - Passengers in limousine service between all points and places in Flathead, Lake, Lincoln and Sanders County, Montana.

Commissioner Brainard moved to approve the withdrawal of the application and to close the docket. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Laura Calkin
Centralized Services

(116) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner Stovall moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of March 19, 2001. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

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There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

Minutes.....March 28, 2001

9:00 a.m.

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on March 28, 2001, the following members were present:

Gary Feland, Chairman
Jay Stovall, Vice Chairman
Bob Anderson, Commissioner, via telephone
Matt Brainard, Commissioner
Bob Rowe, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson

(117) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Power Company electric and gas case, Docket No. D2000.8.113; Commissioner Rowe moved to deny the motion to strike. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Jay Driscoll

(118) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest Corporation competition response tariff filing, Docket No. D2000.2.21; Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the tariff filing with a one year sunset period and with the monitoring recommended by the Montana Consumer Counsel. Commissioner Feland seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 3-2. Commissioners Anderson, Rowe and Stovall voted aye. Commissioners Brainard and Feland dissented.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Robin McHugh

(119) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the proposed addition to anti-slamming rules; Commissioner Rowe moved to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh

(120) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative temporary waiver of permanent number portability, Docket No. D2000.9.163; Commissioner Brainard moved to lift the waiver and close the docket. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

David Hoffman

(121) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the Public Service Commission's authority over electric rates, Docket No. D97.7.90; Commissioner Brainard moved to adopt statement regarding the PSC authority. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)